

Christmas Candles.

Intro: Another use of candles in the Church.

1. Candle from Candere - to shine.
2. The use of artificial light a religious custom of antiquity.

Light the most ethereal of all material things.

Symbol of deity, of godlike power & qualities, of truth, purity, holiness. Christ, the "Light of the World." Christ charges his people to be like the candle which gives light unto all that are in the house.

3. For the 1st 3 centuries no ceremonial use of candles in the Ln services. Spiritual simplicity & antagonism to heathen customs. With Constantine, candles used extensively.

Baptism = splendor of good works which opened the door to the wedding feast.

Bride's candle = purity & sincerity of

Grave candle = everlasting light of

Heaven which the dead enjoy

Easter candle = the Light of the World

Altar candles = the Church, the Light of the World

Xmas Candles, from the old
Roman Saturnalia, a feast
celebrated n 17-24 Dec.

Whatever their origin, candles
on Xmas trees are significantly
beautiful

I. Light all the candles on the tree.

Big & little

Last years & this years.

Let the gleam of the Xmas candle
shine on all the gifts

No matter about the tree, for after
all the real Xmas candles are

II Candles in the Heart.

~~The world would be dark
without the glow of the Xmas Heart.~~

~~Let them shine brightly for
there will yet be peace on earth
& good will to men.~~

Light them - the heart candles
of cheer, sympathy, good-will,
helpful love.

To live one day in good-will to
all men is to hasten the coming
of the Glad Day when all men shall

live in good-will. Thus the
candle now light shall be
The Candle in the World

The World would be dark
without the glow of the Christmas light.

Selfishness, pride & anger &
hatred - war are the wild
beasts creeping toward the
camp of the human family -
but they are afraid of the
light - the light of the
Christmas Candle - so light
them & let them burn
brightly.

How all seem dark & shadowy
now? As tho we were
surrounded by dense fog &
could not see the valleys &
cities below?

The Spirit of Christmas will soon
become the strong wind
that shall drive away the
clouds & fog & reveal to us
above - the sun of righteousness & justice
& love shining below - humanity
basking in the sun's rays of peace
& good will.

Conclusion - The prevailing
color of the decorations red.
The streams of blood now
flowing.

The Blood of Jesus Christ
alone can dry up the rivers
of blood because the blood
signifies the Life & it is
the Life of Jesus Christ,
the life of justice, goodness, & truth,
the life of kindness & good-will,
the life of service & love.
That alone can save this
world & bring Heaven on earth.